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May 13, 2003

MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Re: Patent Application
of Takashi ITO et al.
Serial No. 10/015,404
Examiner: Anthony Q. Edwards
Group Art Unit: 2835
Attorney's Docket No. S004-4479

**REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW OFFICE
ACTION AND RESETTING OF PERIOD FOR RESPONSE**

S I R:

On January 3, 2003, applicants filed a preliminary amendment in the captioned application amending original claims 1-8, adding new claims 9-16 and submitting a substitute specification. Copies of the preliminary amendment and the return receipt postcard showing receipt of the preliminary amendment by the PTO on January 3, 2003 are enclosed.

On May 7, 2003, the Examiner mailed an Office Action that does not mention or take into account the changes made by the preliminary amendment. As the preliminary amendment was received by the PTO more than four months before the mailing date of the Office Action, it should have been considered by the Examiner at the time of initial examination of the application by the Examiner.

MAILING CERTIFICATE ON
LAST PAGE

2835
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Robert
letter

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Page 2

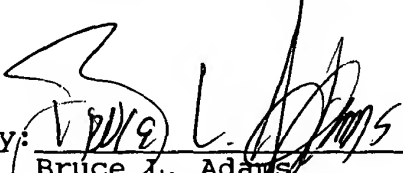
Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner issue a new Office Action superceding the one mailed May 7, 2003 and taking into account the changes made by preliminary amendment and resetting the period for response to run three months from the mailing date of the new Office Action.



Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By:


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Reg. No. 25,386

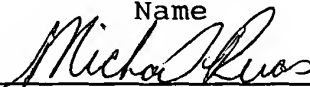
BLA:mr

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Michael Ruas

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